SPAWAR Leadership Conveys New Ideas at Executive Forum

BY: Andrea V. Houck

SAN DIEGO – SPAWAR and the local chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) co-sponsored the SPAWAR / Industry Executive Network session Monday at the Admiral Kidd Club.

The session attracted more than 150 attendees and was an executive-level information exchange among military, government, and industry leaders on topics of mutual interest such as FORCEnet, the Lead Systems Integrator (LSI), the SPAWAR Code 04 and PEO C4I and Space alignment, and contracting initiatives.

Retired Rear Adm. George Wagner kicked off the session by thanking Rear Adm. Ken Slaght, SPAWAR Commander, for his many years of dedication to SPAWAR and its industry partners while serving as Commander. Rear Adm. Slaght's retirement ceremony will be Nov. 3 at SPAWAR Headquarters.

Slaght discussed a new concept that could entail the five Virtual SYSCOM partners (Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Supply Systems Command, SPAWAR, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command) to serve as a "single provider" to the Fleet. A report clearly defining the advantages and disadvantages of this concept is due to the Chief of Naval Operations Oct. 5 and a 100-day evaluation process will then follow.

Rear Adm. Ken Slaght, SPAWAR Commander, presents the idea of the Single Provider Concept at the SPAWAR / NDIA Industry Executive Network session Sept. 26, at the Admiral Kidd Club. With his retirement ceremony date set for Nov. 3, this was Slaght's final SIEN in his role as SPAWAR Commander.

Rod Smith, Deputy Commander of SPAWAR, reviewed the current Enterprise initiatives: 1) lead the Navy in delivering FORCEnet, 2) refresh, shape, and develop the workforce, 3) increase the effective use of acquisition processes and business methods and foster a culture of productivity to provide the maximum "Net Effect" for the taxpayer.

Andrew Cox, the Navy's Deputy Program Executive Officer for C4I and Space, provided an LSI update and a description of the alignment between PEO C4I and Space and SPAWAR Code 04. LSI's major objective is to transfer work to industry that belongs to industry and focus PEO C4I and Space more on acquisition rather than engineering efforts.

The changes are part of the SPAWAR and PEO C4I and Space evolution to better execute programs that more efficiently increase Fleet support and readiness in support of delivering FORCEnet. The alignment will transition accountability and responsibility of installation planning and execution to PEO C4I and Space, which will provide the Fleet with a single organization for acquisition and installation. This will also improve alignment and coordination of C4I readiness issues with Fleet staffs, the Naval Network Warfare Command and across the entire SPAWAR Enterprise.

Representing PEO Space Systems was Bryan Scurry, Director of Operations, who highlighted PEO Space System's role of serving as the central acquisition authority for the procurement of Navy space systems while coordinating with PEO C4I and Space for terminal procurements to optimize benefits for the warfighter.

Tom Higbee, SPAWAR Chief Engineer Executive Director, presented significant events that recently occurred in the Chief Engineer's Office, including the evolution of the FORCEnet Implementation Baseline and the FORCEnet Implementation Tool Suite.

Tim Dowd, Director of Contracts, followed Higbee with a presentation on the progression of several program offices within PEO C4I and Space that are using the LSI approach as a means of contracting.

SIEN networking sessions typically occur quarterly and continue to serve as a forum for industry and government to collaborate on new initiatives. Additional information on SPAWAR / NDIA co-sponsored events, including the ninth annual SPAWAR Industry Conference, can be found at http://www.ndia-sd.org.

###